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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2006

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FORMER VERIZON WIRELESS EMPLOYEE SENTENCED TO 70 MONTHS PRISON

SACRAMENTO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that TIMOTHY CHARLES MATTOS, 34, of Folsom, California, was sentenced today in federal court by U.S. District Judge Morrison England to 70 months in federal prison. MATTOS pleaded guilty in February to two counts of fraud, admitting that he gained unauthorized access to Verizon Wireless's prepaid cellular personal identification numbers ("PINs") with a face value of approximately \$21 million. MATTOS further admitted that he then sold these PINs to retailers across the country.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the United States Secret Service.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Stegman, who is prosecuting the case, TIMOTHY CHARLES MATTOS was formerly employed as a customer service representative at Verizon Wireless. Verizon Wireless offered its customers a service plan which allowed customers to prepay Verizon Wireless for cellular telephone service. Verizon Wireless sold prepaid minutes through 15-digit PINs which were printed on special cards or sold in other forms. To add minutes to their prepaid cellular telephones, customers could purchase PINs from Verizon Wireless or authorized retailers and call a phone number to "activate" the prepaid minutes. Verizon Wireless stored available PINs on a secure computer system available only to certain employees.

Beginning in November of 2002, as a Verizon Wireless customer service representative, MATTOS accessed the computer system, stole the PINs, and then sold them to retailers throughout the country at substantially discounted prices. MATTOS left the company's employment in November of 2003 and continued to steal and sell PINs until March of 2004. Verizon Wireless first discovered the fraud perpetrated by MATTOS and promptly reported it to the Secret Service, and provided substantial assistance in the investigation of the case. Verizon Wireless was the victim of the fraud, and no Verizon Wireless customer information was accessed or compromised as part of MATTOS' scheme.

MATTOS was also ordered to pay \$21,266,185 in restitution to Verizon Wireless. In addition, upon release from prison, MATTOS will be on supervised release for a period of three years.

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